



A Report on the Use of the Local Eligibility License for the 2001-02 School Year

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local Eligibility License Report for the 2001-02 School Year

The *Code of Virginia* requires school boards to provide the Board of Education information about teachers receiving local eligibility licenses and other data related to the issuance of local eligibility licenses as prescribed by the Board. Highlights of the responses to the 2001-02 survey, including comparisons with the 2000-01 survey results, are as follows:

- The response rate to the survey on local school board eligibility license was 100 percent.
- Of 132 Virginia school divisions, 85 school divisions (compared to 91 in 2000-01) reported that no local eligibility licenses were issued by their school boards.
- Forty-seven (47) school boards issued a total of 321 local eligibility licenses (compared to 234 in 2000-01).
- Of the 321 local eligibility licenses issued, 219 were issued to individuals who had previously held a three-year provisional license. Of the 219 who had previously held a three-year provisional license, 192 needed to complete the Praxis assessment requirement.
- In 2001-02, the teaching areas in which most eligibility licenses were issued are as follows:

Teaching Area	Number of Licenses Issued 2001-02
Early/primary and Elementary Education	94
English	29
Mathematics	26
English as Second Lang.	17
Foreign Lang.-Spanish	16
Earth science	16
Health and Physical Educ.	14
Middle Education	14
History and Social Studies	13

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Introduction

The 2000 General Assembly amended Sections 22.1-298, 22.1-299, and 22.1-303 and added a section numbered 22.1-299.3 of the *Code of Virginia* to establish a mechanism for local school boards to issue a valid three-year, nonrenewable local eligibility license to teachers, according to the following criteria:

- No more than ten percent of classroom teachers employed by a school division shall hold a local license.
- The applicant for the local eligibility license shall have earned a baccalaureate degree and shall have such experience or training in a subject or content area as the school board and superintendent deem appropriate for the intended teaching assignment.
- The holder of the local eligibility license shall be required to complete training within the three year licensure period as may be specified by the division superintendent, the school board, and standards prescribed by the Board of Education, which shall include, but need not be limited to, curriculum and instruction, including educational technology, reading, and other specified course content relating to the Standards of Learning, differentiation of instruction, classroom/behavior management, and human growth and development.
- The local eligibility license shall only be valid within the issuing school division.
- No local eligibility license shall be issued if the applicant is eligible for a collegiate professional or postgraduate professional license.
- Teachers issued a local eligibility license shall be considered probationary teachers, shall not be eligible for continuing contract status while employed under the authority of a local license, and shall be subject to the probationary terms of employment specified in the *Code of Virginia*.

Section 22.1-299.3 of the *Code of Virginia* states, in part, “Any teacher employed pursuant to a local eligibility license shall be issued a collegiate professional or postgraduate professional license upon the expiration of the local eligibility license and upon satisfaction of the following conditions:

- (i) recommendation by the division superintendent and the school board for such license;

- (ii) the completion of three successful years of teacher experience while holding a valid three-year local eligibility license as certified by the division superintendent and the school board;
- (iii) achieving a satisfactory score on the professional teacher's examination required by the Board; and
- (iv) such standards as may be prescribed by the Board of Education."

Background

A meeting of directors of human resources was held on June 5, 2000, to discuss the issues associated with the local eligibility license. Subsequently, Superintendent's Memorandum Number 125, dated June 23, 2000, was sent to Virginia school division superintendents to provide guidance in the implementation of the local eligibility license.

The Superintendent's memorandum advised division superintendents that the option of requesting a special education conditional license for an individual who has been assigned to teach special education but who has not met all requirements for a regular license will be continued. The special education conditional license should be requested rather than issue a local license in an area of special education.

As required by the *Code of Virginia*, the Board of Education may prescribe standards to address the professional studies requirements for individuals who seek the regular, five-year license at the conclusion of the local eligibility license. The standards approved by the Board of Education at its September 28, 2000, meeting are as follows:

Standards Governing Issuance of a Regular Five-Year License to Individuals Holding a Local Eligibility License

Individuals issued a local eligibility license must complete Praxis I; Praxis II; and preparation in curriculum and instruction, including educational technology, reading, and other specified course content relating to the Standards of Learning, differentiation of instruction, classroom/behavior management, and human growth and development. These requirements must be completed by one of the following options:

- (1) completion of professional course work at a college or university, not to exceed 15 semester hours in curriculum and instructional content focusing on the areas outlined above; or

- (2) completion of an individualized program developed by the school division, integrating the curriculum and instruction content above and designed to be completed within three years.

School divisions are required to report the number of local eligibility licenses issued annually by their school boards. Information requested in the report will include the following information: total number of local eligibility licenses issued; total number of classroom teachers employed by the school division during the preceding year; percentage of teachers within the school system who have been issued local licenses; names, social security numbers, degrees (including majors) of teachers issued the local license; teaching area identified on the licenses; the total number of years of successful teaching experience under the local license; information on the deficiencies needed by the teacher issued the local license (such as needing to take Praxis); and whether the individual previously held a provisional license.

On October 12, 2001, Administrative Superintendent's Memorandum Number 52 and an electronic survey were sent to school division human resources directors to collect information on the issuance of local eligibility licenses. A summary of the results of the survey is provided in the appendix.

Status Report

The response rate to the survey on local school board eligibility licenses was 100 percent. All school divisions responded to the survey. Highlights of the responses to the 2001-02 survey are as follows:

- Of 132 Virginia school divisions, 85 school divisions (compared to 91 in 2000-01) reported that no local eligibility licenses were issued by their school boards.
- Forty-seven (47) school boards issued a total of 321 local eligibility licenses (compared to 234 in 2000-01). A list of the school boards issuing local eligibility licenses and the teaching areas awarded on those licenses is attached in the appendix.
- Of the 321 local eligibility licenses issued, 219 were issued to individuals who had previously held a three-year provisional license. Of the 219 who had previously held a three-year provisional license, 192 needed to complete the Praxis assessment requirement. A provisional license is a three-year, nonrenewable license issued by the Board of Education to individuals employed by a Virginia public school division who need to meet allowable deficiencies (Praxis assessment, teaching methods preparation and/or successful teaching experience) to become eligible for a full license.

- Of the 321 local eligibility licenses issued, 102 were issued to individuals who have not previously held a provisional license in Virginia.
- In 2001-02, 321 local eligibility licenses were issued in the following teaching areas compared to 234 for the 2000-01 year.

Teaching Area	Number Of Licenses Issued 2000-01	Number of Licenses Issued 2001-02
Early/Elementary Educ.	56	94
Middle Education	18	14
Elem. & Middle Educ.	1	2
Middle Educ. & Biology	0	1
Middle Educ. & Math	0	1
Mathematics	26	26
Algebra	1	0
Earth Science	5	16
Biology	4	5
Chemistry	2	4
Science	1	0
Chemistry & Earth Science	1	0
Physics & Math	0	1
Biology & Earth Science	0	1
English	16	29
English as a Second Lang.	12	17
History & Social Studies	7	13
History	2	1
Government	0	1
Sociology	0	2
Reading	1	0
Foreign Lang.-Spanish	9	16
Foreign Lang.-French	0	1
Foreign Lang.-German	1	0

Teaching Area	Number Of Licenses Issued 2000-01	Number of Licenses Issued 2001-02
Health & Physical Educ.	18	14
Health/PE/Driver Education	1	0
Art	4	8
Music: Instrumental	5	9
Music: Vocal/Choral	4	2
Music: Instrumental and Vocal Choral	1	3
Theatre	0	1
Library Media	5	8
Speech/Language Disorders	1	1
Journalism	1	0
Technology Education	14	9
Business Education	7	8
Work and Family Studies	3	4
Agriculture	1	1
Marketing	1	1
Distributive Ed. & Math	1	0
Health Occupations	0	1
Keyboarding & Computer Technology	0	1
Computer Sci. and Business	0	1
Visiting Teacher	0	1
School Counselor	3	1
School Counselor & Library Media	1	0
Alternative Education	0	2

TOTAL LOCAL LICENSES ISSUED	
2000-01	2001-02
234	321

- No more than ten percent of classroom teachers employed by a school division shall hold a local license. No school board exceeded the limit set for the number of local licenses that could be issued.

APPENDIX